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International migration and development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 69/229 of 19 December 2014. In section II, the report summarizes the latest global migration patterns, highlights the role of migration in population change, and presents the current state of ratification of relevant legal instruments. Section III analyses how migration has been incorporated within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution 70/1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (see General Assembly resolution 69/313). Section IV illustrates how members of the Global Migration Group and other stakeholders have contributed to the implementation of resolution 69/229. Section V contains recommendations on the organization of the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development and indicates how future high-level dialogues could contribute to the thematic review of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Section VI contains a set of recommendations.

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I. Introduction

1. More people are on the move now than ever. The number of international migrants — persons living in a country other than where they were born — reached 244 million in 2015, an increase of 71 million, or 41 per cent, compared to 2000. Economic, social and environmental factors, as well as political instability, will continue to influence global migration trends. At the same time, the world is witnessing the highest level of forced displacement in decades. Today, more than 40 million persons are displaced within countries, while the number of refugees and asylum seekers has surpassed 24 million.[1]

2. Since 2006, the United Nations has stepped up efforts to improve international cooperation on migration in relation to development. The First High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006 was the first high-level meeting of the General Assembly dedicated to such issues. The Declaration adopted at the Second High-level Dialogue in 2013 paved the way for the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution 70/1). The General Assembly decided in 2014 to hold high-level dialogues on international migration and development on a regular basis.

3. On 19 September 2016, world leaders will meet at the United Nations for the purpose of upholding the safety and dignity of refugees and migrants, promoting comprehensive responses and enhanced responsibility-sharing for refugees, and ensuring safe, regular and orderly migration (see A/70/59).

II. International migration: a global overview

A. International migrant stock: global levels and trends

4. Globally, there were 244 million international migrants in 2015.[2] Nearly 58 per cent of all international migrants resided in the developed regions, while the developing regions hosted 42 per cent of the world's total.[3] In the North, 61 per cent of all international migrants originated from a developing country, compared to 87 per cent of all international migrants residing in the South. Between 1990 and 2015, the number of international migrants worldwide increased by over 91 million, or 60 per cent. Nearly two thirds of all international migrants in 2015 resided in Europe (76 million) and Asia (75 million). Northern America hosted the third largest number of international migrants (54 million), followed by Africa (21 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (9 million) and Oceania (8 million).

[1] United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Global Trends: forced Displacement in 2015* (Geneva, 2015). Available fromwww.unhcr.org.

[2] United Nations, *Trends in International Migrant Stock: the 2015 Revision* (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2015). Available from www.unmigration.org.

[3] Following common practice, the "developed regions", referred to also as the "global North" or simply the "North", include Europe and Northern America plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan, while the "developing regions", or the "global South", include all other parts of the world. This terminology derives from the clear distinction between rich and poor countries or regions that existed as recently as 1960, but which has since disappeared as many countries of the South have undergone rapid development. The terms continue to be used because the categories remain meaningful for some purposes; their use in the present report does not imply any judgement as to the current developmental stage of a particular country or region.

5. International migrants (see box 1) comprised about 3.3 per cent of the world's population in 2015, compared to 2.9 per cent in 1990. In the North, international migrants constituted 11.2 per cent of the total population in 2015, compared to 1.7 per cent in developing regions. Between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of international migrants in the total population grew in the North, while it remained stable in the South. During the same period, the proportion of international migrants in the population increased in Oceania from 18 to 21 per cent, in Northern America from 10 to 15 per cent and in Europe from 7 to 10 per cent. In 2015, Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the lowest proportion of international migrants in the total population (1.5 per cent), followed by Africa and Asia (1.7 per cent each). Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean both experienced a decline in the share of international migrants in the total population between 1990 and 2015. The repatriation of refugees contributed to declining numbers of international migrants in some African countries.

6. In 2015, women comprised 48 per cent of all international migrants worldwide. In the North, the share of women among all international migrants increased from 51 per cent in 1990 to 52 per cent in 2015. The decline in the percentage of female migrants in the South, from 47 to 43 per cent, was fuelled by a strong demand for mostly male construction workers in the oil-producing countries of Western Asia. A high percentage of women among international migrants in Europe (52 per cent) and Northern America (51 per cent) has resulted from ageing among settled migrants and higher life expectancy for women, including migrants. By contrast, male migrants in 2015 significantly outnumbered female migrants in Asia (58 per cent) and Africa (54 per cent).

7. In 2015, 72 per cent of all international migrants were between the ages of 20 and 64, reflecting the close connection between migration and labour market activity. Of the 177 million international migrants in this age range, the majority (59 per cent) resided in the developed regions. Globally, 15 per cent of all international migrants were under the age of 20. This proportion was significantly higher in the developing regions (22 per cent) than in the developed regions (around 10 per cent). Globally, there were 30 million international migrants aged 65 or over in 2015.

B. Contribution of net migration to total population change

8. From 1950 to 2015, the developed regions gained population from positive net migration, or a net inflow of persons as a result of migration, while the developing regions lost population as a result of negative net migration, or a net outflow (see figure).[4] Between 1950 and 2010, positive net migration to the developed regions continued to increase, reaching 3.2 million persons per year during the decade from 2000 to 2010, up from less than 0.3 million per annum in the period from 1950 to 1970. After 2010, the size of the net inflow of persons to the developed regions

[4] Net migration refers to the difference between the number of immigrants and the number of emigrants. If more people immigrate than emigrate, the country gains population owing to positive net migration; if more people emigrate than immigrate, the country loses population through negative net migration. The data on net migration presented here do not include information on the country or region of origin or destination.

declined for the first time in five decades, averaging 2.3 million per year between 2010 and 2015.[5]

Box 1
Who is an international migrant?

Although there is no universally agreed definition of the term, an international migrant has been defined for statistical purposes as a person who changes his or her country of usual residence.[a] A long-term migrant is a person who establishes residence in a different country for a period of at least a year, while a short-term migrant moves to a country other than his or her country of usual residence for a period of at least three months but less than a year. Short-term movements for purposes of recreation, holiday, visits to friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage are excluded: persons who change their country of residence for such reasons for a period of less than a year are not considered to be migrants.

For durations of one year or more, however, the motivation for the change of residence plays no part in the definition of an international migrant. This feature is illustrated by the framework for describing the arrival of international migrants provided in the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration* adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1997. The framework provides the following seven categories to describe all types of legal admission of foreign citizens: (a) education or training; (b) employment; (c) family reunification or formation; (d) right to free establishment or movement; (e) long-term or permanent settlement; (f) humanitarian reasons; and (g) regularization of legal status.

For the purpose of enumerating the population of international migrants at a single point in time, known also as the "migrant stock", the *Recommendations* provide two alternative definitions. The stock of international migrants, for a given country and date, is defined as those persons currently residing in the country who are citizens of another country (the "foreign" population) or who were born in another country (the "foreign-born" population). Both variants of the definition rely on the core concept of a change of usual residence: with very few exceptions, the persons involved would have lived for at least a year in another country before establishing residence in the country where they live currently. Following these definitions, the "migrant stock" provides a summary measure of lifetime migration.

Population censuses are the most common source of information on the foreign-born population of a country, while statistics on the foreign population are derived from both censuses and population registers. Given the paucity of data on international migration flows, global migration trends have been analysed mostly on the basis of the size and characteristics of the migrant stock.

[a] See United Nations, Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Statistical Papers, Series M , No. 58, Rev.1 (1998).

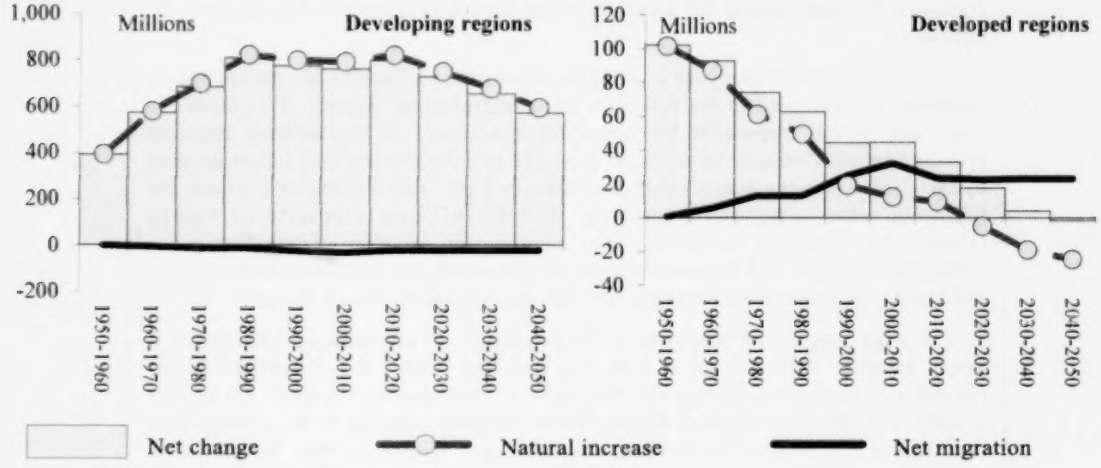
9. Although the total number of international migrants living in Europe has continued to increase, the decline over the past decade in the net inflow of persons

[5] United Nations, *World Population Prospects: the 2015 Revision*.

to the developed regions was due to a reduction in the level of net migration to Europe as a whole. Annual net inflows to Europe declined by more than half, from around 1.7 million between 2000 and 2010 to 0.8 million between 2010 and 2015. Meanwhile, annual net migration was stable for both Northern America (around 1.2 million) and Oceania (0.2 million). For Asia, the estimated net outflow fell from 1.9 million persons per annum between 2000 and 2010 to 1.3 million between 2010 and 2015; for Latin America and the Caribbean, negative net migration dropped by half between the same two time periods, from 0.8 to 0.4 million persons per year. Conversely, annual net outflows from Africa increased from around 0.3 million in the decade from 2000 and 2010 to 0.7 million between 2010 and 2015.

Figure

Contribution of natural increase and net migration to total population change by development group, from 1950-1960 to 2040-2050 (millions of persons per decade)



Source: Data from *World Population Prospects: the 2015 Revision*.

10. Between 1950 and 1990, the populations of both the developed and the developing regions grew primarily as a result of natural increase, owing to a consistent surplus of births over deaths (see figure). Since 1990, however, net migration has been the primary source of population growth for the developed regions as a whole. In the developing regions since 1990, the population has continued to grow because of a surplus of births over deaths, albeit at lower rates than in previous decades, while the impact of net migration on the total change has remained comparatively small.

11. In the developed regions, net immigration is expected to be the main driver of population growth between 2000 and 2020, and the sole driver of growth in later decades. From 2000 to 2030, population growth in the developing regions is expected to slow down owing to a decline in natural increase caused by a drop in the birth rate, with net migration continuing to play a minor role in overall population change.

12. By the decade from 2040 to 2050, population growth in the developed regions is projected to be negative, with positive net migration no longer compensating for the excess of deaths over births. For the developing regions, population growth is projected to continue as a result of natural increase, albeit at declining rates, with negative net migration still having a relatively small effect.

13. Because international migrants tend to be concentrated in the working ages, positive net migration can contribute to reducing the old-age dependency ratio, namely, the number of persons aged 65 years or older divided by the number aged 15 to 64 (see box 2). Under the medium variant of the United Nations population projections,[6] the old-age dependency ratio in the developed regions is projected to increase from 27 older persons per 100 working-age adults in 2015 to 46 per 100 in 2050. If net migration were zero between 2015 and 2050, the old-age dependency ratio of the developed regions in 2050 would be somewhat higher, at 50 per 100. By comparison to the medium-variant projection, with a scenario of zero net migration, the projected level of the old-age dependency ratio in 2050 would increase from 48 to 51 in Europe, from 38 to 43 in Northern America and from 30 to 34 in Oceania.

C. Ratification of international instruments

14. The international normative framework concerning international migration includes instruments to promote and protect the human rights of all persons. There are also specific instruments to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers and their families, to protect refugees and to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking. As of 1 July 2016, instruments designed to protect refugees and to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking had been ratified by more than three quarters of Member States.

15. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has adopted three instruments that are of direct relevance for the protection of migrant workers, namely, Convention No. 97 concerning Migration for Employment (Revised 1949); the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143); and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).[7] In 1990, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (see General Assembly resolution 45/158) established international definitions for "migrant worker" and for categories of migrant workers, and formalized the responsibility of States in upholding the rights of migrant workers and members of their families. Overall, 92 countries had ratified at least one of the four instruments relevant to migrant workers as of 1 July 2016. Together those countries hosted 83 million international migrants in 2015, or 34 per cent of the global total.

16. The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees are the central instruments for refugee protection. The 1951 Convention specified the legal definition of "refugee", enumerated the rights of refugees, enshrined the practice of "non-refoulement", and established the legal obligation of States to protect refugees. The 148 States that have ratified either the 1951 Convention or the

[6] Ibid.

[7] Many domestic workers are international migrants, particularly migrant women; see International Labour Organization, *ILO global estimates on migrant workers: results and methodology* (Geneva, 2015).

1967 Protocol collectively hosted 9.6 million refugees in 2015, about half of the world's total.

17. As of 1 July 2016, 168 Member States had ratified the 2000 Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[8] and 142 States had ratified the 2000 Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.[9] The rapid increase in the ratification of the human trafficking and migrant smuggling protocols may reflect a growing concern among Member States about the involvement of organized crime in irregular migration.

Box 2

Impact of migration on population ageing in Europe: projection scenarios

Population ageing, a long-term consequence of declining fertility and increased longevity, describes the shift in the population's distribution by age from younger to older ages, resulting in relatively greater proportions in the older age groups. While the process of population ageing is nearly universal, countries are at different stages in this transformation. Europe has the oldest population among the major regions of the world, and some countries in the region are experiencing negative natural growth owing to an excess of deaths over births.

For a given country and time period, the net migration rate is defined as the annual number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants divided by the total population. The first projection scenario assumes that the annual rate of net migration for the period from 2015 to 2050 will remain constant at four net migrants per 1,000 population; the second scenario, at two per 1,000; and the third scenario, at zero.

The estimated median age[a] of Europe's population in 2015 was 41.8 years. Assuming a constant net migration rate of four per 1,000, Europe's median age would increase to 43.8 in 2050. With a constant rate of two per 1,000, the median age in 2050 would increase even further to 45.1. The scenario with zero net migration would produce a median age of 47.3 in 2050. For the medium-variant projection, the assumption and results lie in between the last two scenarios.

In sum, although higher levels of positive net migration could moderate the upward shift in the age distribution, the impact under plausible scenarios is likely to be modest, and migration cannot be expected to halt or reverse the long-term trend towards population ageing. Nevertheless, for countries and regions that maintain a steady net inflow of migrants, the median age of the population and its old-age dependency ratio will be somewhat lower than they would be otherwise.

[a] The median age divides the population in two age groups of equal size, with as many persons having ages above the median as below.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[9] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

III. International migration and development at the United Nations

18. By acknowledging the important contributions of migration to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and by recognizing that human mobility is an enabler of sustainable development, the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (see General Assembly resolution 68/4) paved the way for the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see General Assembly resolution 70/1). With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, international migration and its multidimensional relationship with development became an integral part of the United Nations development agenda. Member States have committed to strengthening international cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. The Agenda recognizes the positive contributions of migration, migrants and mobility to inclusive growth and sustainable development, and provides a framework for addressing the root causes of displacement, including insecurity, conflict, persecution and lack of opportunity.

Box 3
Migration and the 2030 Agenda

(a) Sustainable Development Goals (target)

- Strengthen and retain health workforce in developing countries (3.c)
- Increase the number of scholarships for study abroad (4.b)
- Eradicate human trafficking (5.2, 8.7 and 16.2)
- Protect labour rights of migrant workers, in particular women migrants (8.8)
- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (10.7)
- Reduce transaction costs of remittances (10.c)
- Ensure legal identity, including through birth registration (16.9)
- Disaggregate data by migratory status (17.18)

(b) Addis Ababa Action Agenda (paragraph)

- Mitigate negative impact on access to financial services of measures to counter money laundering and terrorism financing (24)
- Facilitate access to affordable financial services for migrants and their families (40)
- Promote cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances (40)
- Deliver quality education to migrant and refugee children (78)
- Ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, with full respect for human rights (111)
- Increase portability of earned benefits and mutual recognition of qualifications (111)
- Combat xenophobia and facilitate social integration of migrants (111)
- End human trafficking, in particular of women and children (112)

19. The Sustainable Development Goals include several targets directly related to migrants, migration and mobility (see box 3). Target 10.7, the only target devoted entirely to migration, calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Other migration-related targets aim at retaining health workers in developing countries (3.c), providing scholarships for study abroad (4.b), ending human trafficking (5.2, 8.7, 16.2), respecting the labour rights of migrant workers, in particular women migrants (8.8), reducing the costs of transferring remittances (10.c) and providing legal identity for all (16.9). Disaggregation of data by migratory status (17.18) will be useful for identifying the particular vulnerabilities of migrants and ensuring inclusive development, a key feature of the 2030 Agenda expressed by the pledge that "no one will be left behind". Comparative analysis of the well-being of both native-born and foreign-born populations, or of populations of citizens and foreigners, will be critical in this regard.

20. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (see General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex) seeks to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. An integral part of the 2030 Agenda, the Addis agreement calls on countries to deliver quality education to all girls and boys, including migrant and refugee children, to combat xenophobia and to facilitate migrant integration (see box 3). The agreement also promotes cheaper, faster and safer transfer of remittances by fostering competition and transparency in the marketplace and seeks to enhance the productive use of remittances through greater financial inclusion and literacy. Further, the agreement urges Member States to lower recruitment costs for migrant workers and to facilitate the portability of earned benefits and the recognition of foreign qualifications, education and skills.

21. Recent crises associated with large movements of refugees and migrants have become a top priority for the United Nations. On 20 November 2015, the General Assembly considered the global awareness of the tragedies of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean basin. At that meeting, the Secretary-General offered a road map for responding to the challenges created by recent large movements of refugees and migrants. In response, Member States decided, on 22 December 2015, to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants on 19 September 2016 (see General Assembly decision 70/539). The high-level meeting is now known also as the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

IV. Implementing the 2030 Agenda: activities of the Global Migration Group and other stakeholders

22. The present section highlights some activities of members of the Global Migration Group[10] in implementing the outcome of the Second High-level Dialogue, as well as the 2030 Agenda. It also provides an overview of the recent activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development.

[10] See www.globalmigrationgroup.org/.

A. Protecting migrant rights and upholding refugee protection

23. Since the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention in 2011, some 70 countries have taken action to advance decent work for domestic workers. The ILO and its partners have implemented a Global Action Programme on Migrant Domestic Workers, which has promoted the development of policy-oriented research and awareness-raising tools, supported migrant domestic workers' organizations and facilitated policy dialogue.

24. Women comprise slightly less than half of the world's international migrants.[11] The particular vulnerabilities of female migrants underscore the need for gender-sensitive migration policies and programmes, including for ensuring access to health-care services in humanitarian settings and for preventing gender-based violence and human trafficking and smuggling. For some women, migration can be a disempowering experience, especially when they are employed in unregulated sectors of the economy (see A/70/205). The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), is implementing a three-year project to strengthen the capacities of workers' organizations to promote human rights and labour standards for female migrant workers.

25. The Global Migration Group, chaired by UN-Women, organized an event focusing on empowering migrant women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda, held in the margins of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2016. In its agreed conclusions, the Commission acknowledged the positive contributions of migrant women workers to inclusive growth and sustainable development and recognized that equal economic rights, economic empowerment and independence for women were essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda (see E/2016/27-E/CN.6/2016/22).

26. Older migrants are often affected by poor socioeconomic and health status, and by social isolation and exclusion. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) prepared a policy brief on the challenges faced by retired migrant workers and by caregivers for older migrants, focusing on social isolation and access to pensions and welfare.[12]

27. Migrants in irregular situations often face discrimination, exclusion, exploitation and abuse. OHCHR conducted a study on the economic, social and cultural rights of migrants in irregular situations and identified some of the barriers that often prevent those migrants from enjoying these rights, and highlighted several good practices.[13]

28. After reaching a country of first asylum, refugees and asylum seekers are often forced to move onward in search of protection and durable solutions. In the first four months of 2016, some 180,000 refugees and other migrants reached Europe by crossing the Mediterranean and Aegean seas. In response to the continued large flows of Syrian refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

[11] *Trends in International Migrant Stock* (see footnote 2 above).

[12] Economic Commission for Europe, "Migration and older age", Policy Brief on Ageing, No. 17 (July 2016).

[13] Available from www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-14-1_en.pdf.

Refugees (UNHCR) has promoted an expansion of admission programmes for refugees and asylum seekers in third countries, including through resettlement, humanitarian visas, family reunification, private sponsorship and student and work visas. People in mixed migratory movements often use similar smuggling networks and precarious modes of travel. To ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are identified within these mixed flows, UNHCR promotes protection-sensitive procedures at international borders, and reception arrangements that avoid unwarranted restrictions on freedom of movement.[14]

29. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is developing principles and guidelines on the protection of all migrants in vulnerable situations and within the context of mixed migratory movements. The initiative addresses protection gaps experienced by migrants in vulnerable situations who do not have access to refugee protection. OHCHR has issued Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking for the protection of human rights at international borders.[15] While recognizing that States have legitimate interests to protect their national borders, States must respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrants at their borders, regardless of their legal status, means of arrival or place of origin.

30. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) seeks to strengthen the resilience of host communities affected by large influxes of refugees and asylum seekers, and to increase the self-reliance of refugees. The 2016-2017 regional refugee and resilience plan promotes national leadership in planning and implementing the response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan and Lebanon.

31. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has reported that one in four asylum seekers in Europe in 2015 was a child, many of them unaccompanied or separated from their families.[16] UNICEF supports migrant and refugee children by establishing child-friendly centres and by providing child protection and other services. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes access to quality education in the Syrian Arab Republic and in neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees.[17]

B. Designing well-managed migration policies

32. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) are developing indicators to measure the implementation of target 10.7, which calls on Member States to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility. The selection of indicators is based on a migration governance framework that was welcomed by the IOM Council in 2015. IOM and the Economist Intelligence Unit have piloted a migration governance index in 15 countries.

33. A joint programme on labour migration, implemented by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission, ILO and IOM,

[14] UNHCR, 10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration (Geneva, 2006; revised version, January 2007).

[15] See www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Migration/OHCHR_Recommended_Principles_Guidelines.pdf.

[16] United Nations Children's Fund, "Refugee and migrant crisis in Europe" (September 2015).

[17] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth* (Paris, 2015).

promotes the development, adoption and implementation of coherent labour migration policies in Africa. The partnership seeks to facilitate the portability of social security, to promote the recognition of qualifications and to address skills shortages.

34. To prevent and combat the human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supports Member States' efforts to cooperate across borders and coordinate their actions through legislative support and technical assistance. Since early 2015, UNODC has assisted over 65 countries and provided specialized training to more than 1,300 criminal justice practitioners and government officials.

35. To ensure migrants' rights to health, the World Health Organization (WHO) supports Member States in developing universal health coverage and equitable access to quality health services for all persons, including migrants. At a meeting on refugee and migrant health held in Italy in November 2015, European countries agreed to prepare a common framework to improve refugee and migrant health in the region.

36. Local governments play a critical role in implementing migration policies. The second annual Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development, supported by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and its partners, adopted an agenda for cities to assist in achieving the migration-relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.[18]

37. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is carrying out a project to promote well-managed migration policies in North and Central Asia. The project aims to build knowledge and to facilitate cooperation and partnerships between countries of origin and destination.

38. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, in collaboration with ILO and OHCHR, published a handbook to assist parliamentarians in the design and promotion of laws and policies to promote the human rights of migrants and to strengthen migration governance.[19]

39. In 2014, the Governments of the Philippines and the United States of America launched the Migrants in Countries in Crisis Initiative to assist international migrants who are stranded in host countries as a result of conflict or natural disaster. As part of this State-led initiative, guidelines have been prepared to assist countries, the private sector, international organizations and civil society to respond in such situations.[20] Other governments have joined the initiative, which is also supported by IOM, UNHCR, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Georgetown University.

[18] See www.unitar.org/dcp/sites/unitar.org.dcp/files/uploads/quito_outcome_document_en.pdf.

[19] Inter-Parliamentary Union, ILO and OHCHR, *Migration, human rights and governance: Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 24*, 2015.

[20] International Organization for Migration, Guidelines to protect migrants in countries experiencing conflict or natural disaster (Geneva, June 2016).

C. Leveraging migration for development

40. The United Nations Development Programme and IOM are implementing a joint programme to mainstream migration in national development plans and strategies, including as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The programme is seeking to establish a coherent United Nations approach to migration and development in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tunisia.

41. In cooperation with various partners, UNDP implements the Joint Migration and Development Initiative of the European Commission and the United Nations, which aims to strengthen the role of local governments, migrants and other actors in developing migration and development policies as part of local development planning.

42. Officially recorded remittances to developing countries in 2015 amounted to $431.6 billion.[21] The global average cost of sending remittances was around 7.5 per cent in late 2015 and early 2016.[22] With an average cost of 9.7 per cent, Sub-Saharan Africa was the region with the highest remittance transfer fees.

43. By linking remittances to financial services such as savings, loans and insurance, financial inclusion can become an important tool to maximize the development impact of remittances. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) organizes expert meetings on financial inclusion and supports greater use of digital financial services. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), together with the World Bank and the European Union, has organized global forums on remittances and development, bringing together representatives of the private and public sectors, and from civil society. The forums highlight the importance of financial inclusion, the use of innovations and technology to reduce transaction costs, and the role of diaspora investments in creating employment opportunities.[23]

44. In 2015, the 176 States members of the Governing Council of IFAD unanimously proclaimed 16 June the International Day of Family Remittances. The Day aims to recognize the fundamental contribution of earnings by migrant workers to their families and communities back home and to the sustainable development of their countries of origin.

45. In May 2015, the Global Migration Group organized a meeting on harnessing the contributions to sustainable development of migrant remittances and diaspora populations in general. Participants presented data and research on the social and economic value of lowering recruitment costs and remittance transfer fees.

46. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), along with its partners in the Asia-Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration, including Human Trafficking, produced a report on the contributions of migrants to development in countries of origin and destination.[24]

[21] World Bank Group, Migration and development brief 26 (Washington D.C., April 2016).
[22] World Bank, Remittances prices worldwide, Issue No. 17 (Washington D.C., March 2016).
[23] Global Forum on Remittances and Development, Milan, Italy, 16-19 June 2015.
[24] Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2015*: migrants' contributions to development (Bangkok, 2016).

47. In 2015, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) initiated a project on migration, food security and rural poverty reduction in Ethiopia and Tunisia. The project seeks to address the root causes of involuntary migration and to promote youth employment in rural areas. FAO is strengthening partnerships with various actors to integrate migration into agricultural and rural development policies and programmes, and to foster the productive investment of remittances in rural areas.

D. Improving migration data and research

48. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs and IOM presented a draft Global Migration Group handbook on migration and development data at the annual meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Istanbul in October 2015. The handbook is scheduled for publication in late 2016 with support from the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).

49. The Population Division and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a regional workshop on the production and use of international migration data for development in Dakar, Senegal, in September 2015. The workshop aimed to strengthen the technical capacity of national officials to produce and analyse migration data, to improve the use of migration data for policy formulation, and to increase awareness about the migration-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. In follow-up to the workshop, the Department and IOM have agreed to collaborate on improving migration data in Western Africa through workshops, country-specific training, and the promotion of international standards for data collection and dissemination.

50. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) has promoted the harmonization of migration concepts and definitions as well as the exchange of migration data, developed new methodologies for measuring emerging migration patterns, and improved the measurement of the impact of migration in the region. It has also started to develop a common statistical definition of circular migration, guidelines for measuring labour mobility, and guidance for integrating migration data from multiple sources.

51. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has invested in the collection, analysis, utilization and sharing of migration data, including data disaggregated by age and sex, and has promoted a better understanding of the relationship between demographic change, migration and socioeconomic development. Sponsored by KNOMAD, UNFPA coordinated a review of the migration assumptions used in population projections.[25]

52. In 2015, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) prepared a report on international migration providing a comprehensive overview of contemporary migration trends and their economic and social consequences in Western Asia. The report focuses on the nexus between migration, displacement and development, and includes recommendations to address the challenges faced by migrants and refugees and to maximize the benefits of migration.

[25] Thomas Buettner and Rainer Muenz, *Comparative Analysis of International Migration in Population Projections*, KNOMAD Working Paper 10 (March, 2016).

E. Strengthening cooperation and partnerships

53. Both before and during 2015, the Global Migration Group, in collaboration with the Global Forum on Migration and Development and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, continued to advocate for the inclusion of migration in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In June 2015, the first joint event held by the Group, the Forum and the Group of 20 was organized to explore the role of migration, remittances and diaspora in financing for development. The Group has also organized a series of interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings in preparation for the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

54. In February 2015, the coordination meeting on international migration, convened annually by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, considered progress in integrating migration into the 2030 Agenda, and ways to leverage migration within the new framework on financing for development. It also focused on the follow-up to the Second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. In February 2016, the coordination meeting addressed progress in measuring and implementing the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda, and reviewed the preparations for the forthcoming Summit in September 2016.

55. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development is planning to issue a report in late 2016 that will discuss how international cooperation in the field of migration can be improved — in particular, how the most vulnerable migrants can be protected. It will also examine how the 2030 Agenda can be implemented to benefit countries of origin and destination as well as migrants and their families.

56. The eighth annual meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, convened by the Turkish Chair in October 2015, focused on human mobility for sustainable development. The Forum discussed the need for international cooperation and responsibility-sharing in responding to forcibly displaced populations. Bridging the gap between humanitarian and development cooperation was highlighted as requiring urgent attention. The Forum established a working group to study its contribution to the implementation, review and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals.

57. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) participated in several regional and international forums on migration, including the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the Arab regional consultative process on migration. The Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region, co-chaired by ESCWA, the League of Arab States and IOM, fostered collaboration and promoted joint research on migration. With the support of IOM and the League, the Arab regional consultative process served as a platform to enhance understanding and cooperation on migration issues for 22 Arab States.

V. The Third High-level Dialogue and beyond: proposals on modalities and linkages to other bodies and processes

58. In resolution 69/229, the General Assembly decided to: (a) hold the Third High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development by no later than 2019; (b) hold future dialogues at regular intervals; and (c) establish the date and modalities of the Third High-level Dialogue and determine the periodicity of future dialogues at its seventy-first session, taking into account alignment with all relevant United Nations development review processes.

A. Purpose and periodicity of future dialogues

59. Future dialogues could play a key role in the thematic review of the 2030 Agenda, serving as a central platform for assessing progress towards the achievement of the migration-related Goals and targets and towards the implementation of other relevant commitments, including those of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (see box 3). Such reviews would be informed by a robust evidence base that includes the global indicators being developed currently under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The contribution of future dialogues would be complemented by reviews by the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Population and Development, and other intergovernmental bodies and forums (see General Assembly resolution 70/1, para. 85), such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development, in the light of the call by Member States for coherence of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums with the work of the high-level political forum towards the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (see General Assembly resolution 70/299, para. 15).

60. Given that the first four-year cycle of the high-level political forum will conclude in 2019, when the forum will convene under the auspices of the General Assembly, it may be desirable to hold the Third High-level Dialogue in 2018 or early 2019, so that the Dialogue's outcome could be taken into account in the preparations for the forum in 2019, which will review target 10.7 in considering the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality" (ibid., para. 3 (c)). If 2018 were chosen, future dialogues could take place on a quadrennial basis, during the third year of the forum's four-year cycle. This timing may be optimal for contributing to the review of the 2030 Agenda. Future dialogues could also serve as a central platform for following up on the 2016 Summit for Refugees and Migrants.

B. Relationship with the intergovernmental conference in 2018

61. In his report prepared for the Summit to be held on 19 September 2016 (see A/70/59), the Secretary-General called on Member States to develop a global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration, to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018, which was agreed upon by Member States on 2 August 2016. In addition to the review of the 2030 Agenda and the follow-up to previous high-level dialogues and the 2016

Summit, future dialogues could review the implementation of the global compact, if such an agreement were adopted at the conference.

62. An important decision concerns the timing of the Third High-level Dialogue in relation to the conference, and the possible role of the Dialogue in contributing to the preparations for the conference. It is worthwhile to consider three possible scenarios. In the first scenario, the Dialogue would take place before the conference, possibly in late 2017 or early 2018, and could contribute to the preparations for the conference, which might take place in the second half of 2018. In the second scenario, the Dialogue would take place after the conference, possibly in 2019, and could initiate the follow-up process for the conference. In the third scenario, the Dialogue and the conference would be merged to become a single event or two consecutive and coordinated events.

63. Although each scenario has its own merits, the second scenario is perhaps the most difficult to justify, as Member States may not support another high-level meeting on international migration in the year following a major conference on the topic. One advantage of the third scenario is that it may reduce the total cost of the two events. An advantage of the first scenario is that it would offer an opportunity to establish, sooner and with greater focus, the role of the high-level dialogue process in the follow up of the 2030 Agenda, while also providing an avenue to contribute to the preparations for the conference. Under the first scenario, a role of the Economic and Social Council may be envisioned by holding, for instance, the dialogue in tandem with the fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development. Given that one high-level meeting may not be sufficient for preparing an intergovernmental conference, any contribution of the Third High-level Dialogue to the preparation of the conference would be partial.

C. Duration and format of the plenary meetings

64. Previous high-level dialogues in 2006 and 2013 have been two-day events with four plenary meetings. In both cases, four round-table meetings were held concurrently with the plenary meetings, featuring interactive discussions and multi-stakeholder panels.

65. For the first or second scenario, mentioned above, the General Assembly may wish to adopt a similar structure for the Third High-level Dialogue, with plenary meetings on two consecutive days from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The number of round-table meetings could be adjusted according to the desired thematic content of the Dialogue. In the first scenario, for example, the review of the 2030 agenda and the follow-up to the Second High-level Dialogue and the 2016 Summit could be the subject of three round tables, with an additional round table devoted to the preparation of the conference in 2018.

66. The opening could include statements delivered by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration. The meeting could also feature presentations by an eminent person working in the field of migration and development, a representative of civil society and a migrant.

67. In addition to Member States and observers, the General Assembly could invite the participation of the heads of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and

programmes as well as the relevant special advisers, representatives and rapporteurs. Representatives from major groups of stakeholders — for example, migrants, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, other civil society organizations and the private sector — could be included, time permitting, in the list of speakers for the plenary meetings.

68. Under the third scenario, the nature of the Third High-level Dialogue would be fundamentally different and should be addressed in a discussion on the modalities of the conference.

D. Structure, format and themes of the interactive round-table meetings

69. For the first or second scenarios, the first round table of the Third High-level Dialogue could take stock of the implementation of the Declaration of the Second High-level Dialogue, in accordance with paragraph 32 of General Assembly resolution 69/229. The second round table could be dedicated to a review of progress in achieving the migration-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and implementing other relevant commitments, including the Addis Ababa agreement, whereas the third round table could consider the implementation of the commitments made at the Summit in 2016. The fourth round table could focus on the preparations for the intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018 in the first scenario, or on the follow-up to the conference in the second scenario.

70. The chairs of the round tables could be designated by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the regional groups and other stakeholders, from among ministers who commit to attending the Dialogue, with due regard for geographical representation and gender balance. Summaries of the deliberations of the round-table meetings could be presented orally by the round-table chairs at the concluding plenary meeting.

71. Participation in the round-table meetings could be open to representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system and other institutional stakeholders, including from civil society and the private sector. The General Assembly may wish to make specific provisions to provide speaking roles in the round-table meetings for heads of entities of the United Nations system and selected representatives of civil society and the private sector.

E. Contributions from civil society

72. The General Assembly may wish to organize informal interactive hearings with representatives of civil society prior to the Third High-level Dialogue. The hearings could take place over the course of one full day. The President of the General Assembly would preside over the hearings, which could be open to representatives of accredited non-governmental organizations, other civil society organizations, the private sector, Member States and observers of the General Assembly. The Assembly may wish to entrust the President with determining the list of invited participants and the format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders.

73. The President of the General Assembly could be tasked with preparing and disseminating a summary of the hearings prior to the Third High-level Dialogue. In order to facilitate the participation in the hearings by civil society organizations from developing countries, the General Assembly may wish to urge Member States and others to make voluntary contributions to support this activity. The Assembly may wish to recommend that other preparatory activities, such as panel discussions or expert meetings, be organized with support from interested Member States, relevant entities of the United Nations system or other institutional stakeholders.

F. Outcome

74. The report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly could include a summary of the Third High-level Dialogue, including its preparatory events and deliberations (see A/69/207). In addition, the Assembly may wish to call for an action-oriented outcome document and entrust the President with producing a draft text based on inputs from Member States, convening informal consultations at an appropriate date to allow sufficient consideration and facilitate agreement by Member States prior to the Dialogue.

VI. Recommendations

75. **Regarding international cooperation on migration and development:**

(a) **In view of the inclusion of migration and related topics in the Sustainable Development Goals, the relevant entities of the United Nations system should continue to support developing countries in integrating migration into national development planning;**

(b) **The collection and analysis of data on migration and related topics, and the use of such data to support the formulation of evidence-based policies, should receive high priority. National efforts by developing countries should be supported by international cooperation through technical and financial assistance;**

(c) **The Global Migration Group should further coordinate and strengthen its activities in support of Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the outcome of the Second High-level Dialogue in 2013. In particular, the Group should support countries in collecting and using migration-related indicators to assess their progress in achieving the relevant Goals and targets.**

76. **Regarding future high-level dialogues on international migration and development:**

(a) **Future dialogues should serve as a central platform at the United Nations for reviewing progress and assessing the implementation of the migration-related commitments of the 2030 Agenda . They may also play a role in reviewing the commitments made at the Summit for Refugees and Migrants in 2016;**

(b) The General Assembly should consider holding future high-level dialogues on a quadrennial basis, possibly in the third year of the four-year cycle of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, starting in 2018.

77. **Regarding the relationship between future high-level dialogues and the intergovernmental conference on international migration in 2018:**

(a) The General Assembly should weigh the pros and cons of different scenarios regarding the timing and scope of the Third High-level Dialogue in relation to the conference, including scenarios where the Dialogue occurs before and contributes to the preparations for the conference, or where the Dialogue occurs after and initiates the follow-up process, or where the conference and the Dialogue are merged to become a single event or two consecutive and coordinated events;

(b) Future high-level dialogues should provide a consolidated, quadrennial assessment of the implementation of the outcome(s) of the conference in 2018, in addition to their role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the Summit in 2016 and earlier high-level dialogues.